

BUSINESS EXPANDING *Duxbury Reporter June 3, 2011*
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Westwinds moves into bigger digs

By Kathryn Koch

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DUXBURY – The new owners of Westwinds Bookshop look to continue the mission of inspiring readers from their new location at 25 Depot St.

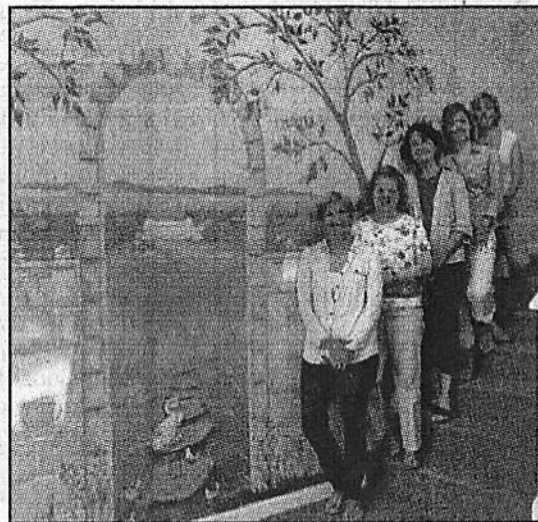
It was over a cup of coffee that relative strangers decided to team up and buy the bookstore when it was placed on the market. Brooke Mc-

Donough and Doug and Lydia Hart are the proud new owners of a store to which they have been frequent visitors since they moved to town.

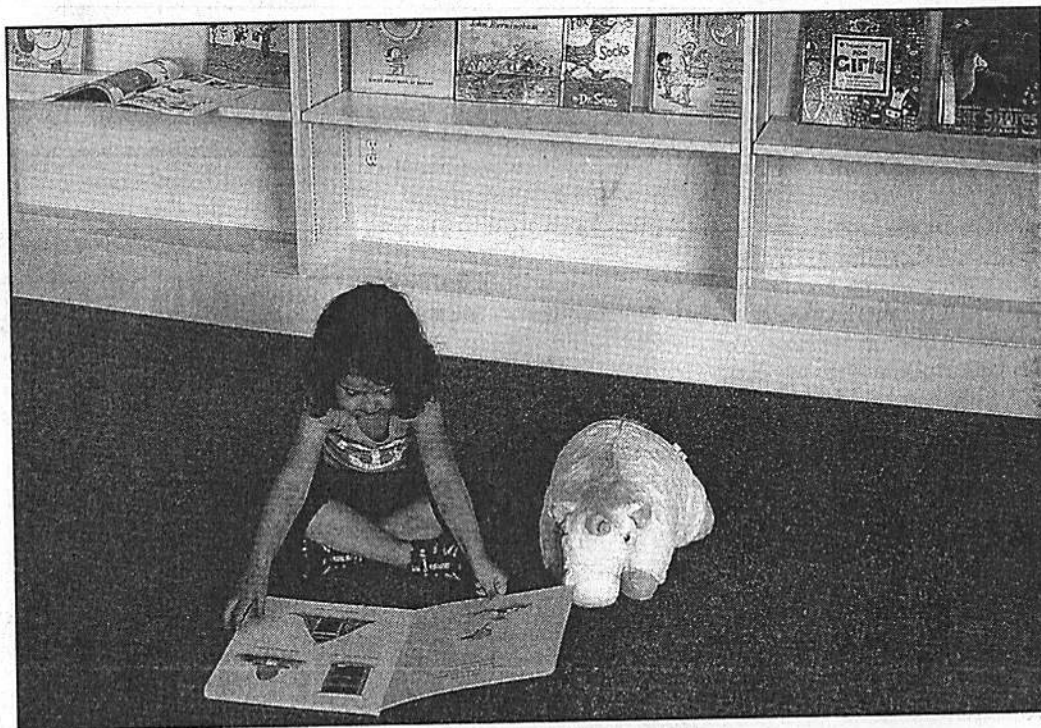
"I've always loved Westwinds, and I thought it was a great opportunity to join Lydia and Doug," McDough said. "They really didn't want to see it close, either."

After a flurry of activity in the days and weeks leading up to the big day, the new Westwinds opened

SEE WESTWINDS, 7



The children's section of the new Westwinds Bookshop at 25 Depot St. features a decorative mural created by Sandy Fleming alongside, from left, Lydia Hart, Luann Keenan, Brooke McDough and Sarah Nixon. STAFF PHOTO/KATHRYN KOCH



Agnes Buell, 4, reads a book while her father helps get Westwinds Booksop ready to open at 25 Depot St.

STAFF PHOTO/KATHRYN KOCH

WESTWINDS

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May 31: Books that has previously been stored in boxes were placed on custom bookshelves in the children's room first.

The popular children's book *Make Way For Ducklings* serves as the inspiration for decorative artist Sandy Fleming's mural painted on the wall in the room. Fleming donated her time and talents to create the mural, going beyond Lydia's expectations when she asked her for help decorating.

"I asked her because I knew she did murals and knew it would be awesome," Lydia said. "It's beyond our wildest dreams."

The bookshelves themselves are another example of the community support they have received. Local builder David Gould built the bookshelves and then donated them. Doug Hart reached out through Gould's wife for help and got more than he bargained for.

"He was thrilled to do it," Doug said. "He did it just because he wants to be a part of our success."

The support they have received has been much appreciated, McDonough said.

"It amazes and humbles us that people are so generous with their time and talent, and I think it's a tribute to how beloved this bookshop is to the community," she said.

For McDonough, a freelance writer, Lydia, former manager at Duxbury Thrift, and Doug Hart, an investment advisor with Penobscot Investment Management, the decision to take ownership of the bookstore was based on their strong desire to keep the bookshop open, saving it from closing the year it's celebrating 65 years in business.

In doing so, they decided to make another big move, as well, but Westwinds didn't move far. It's located in the building next to its former location. The move has made a big difference.

"We basically doubled in size, including the children's section," McDonough said.

With more room comes more programs like Monday morning children's summer storytime and more events like book signings and book readings by writers of chil-

dren's books and books for adults.

Among the programs scheduled at the store are breakfast with children's author Peter Arenstam, writer of *Nicholas, A Massachusetts Tale*, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 18. Lauren Salamone, author of *5 Must Know Secrets of Today's College Girl*, will be at Westwinds from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 28.

Westwinds has also partnered with the Duxbury schools to offer a 20-percent discount on summer reading list books and 10 percent off high school paperbacks. All hardcovers are for sale at a 20 percent discount.

Luann Keenan has worked at Westwinds for 12 years and Roberta Erickson for about 10 years. Keenan said she would miss the bookstore terribly if it were to close. Keenan said they pride themselves on pro-

viding personal customer service, knowing what their customers like while sharing their passion for reading.

"Without them, we'd be lost," McDonough said. "They have the experience."

Sarah Nixon brings her background as a children's bookseller and middle school librarian, along with a passion for children's literature, to her job as children's bookbuyer for Westwinds. She's excited about joining the team and matching customers with books.

"We're just really excited to have the best of the best," she said.

Her decision to join in with the Harts on a new venture has brought McDonough happiness.

"It's really the best job I've ever had," she said. "I get to talk about books."